

CHAPTER 244

EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HOUSE BILL 22-1366

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also SENATOR(S) Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Fields, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Hinrichsen, Jaquez Lewis, Lee, Moreno, Pettersen, Rodriguez, Winter, Zenzinger, Fenberg.

AN ACT

CONCERNING INCREASING ACCESS TO POSTSECONDARY WORKFORCE READINESS WITH FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly finds and declares that:

(a) Research shows that education and training culminating in credentials, such as industry certificates, trade school certificates, apprenticeships, associate's degrees, and bachelor's degrees, among other business and industry-based experiences, are necessary to earn a living wage in Colorado. Completion of the federal or state financial aid applications are key components of understanding how additional education beyond high school can be financially supported. Completion of federal or state financial aid applications supports access to these career pathway options, as they are vehicles to support paying for tuition, fees, equipment, and other expenses associated with additional training beyond high school.

(b) An understanding of how to access these career-aligned resources and supports is integral to navigating training and education resources for students and families. Financial literacy education and Colorado's individual career and academic plan can help families understand how to obtain federal or state financial aid to support students in pursuing additional education and career training.

(c) Research shows that students and families who do not complete financial aid forms do so for one or more of the following reasons:

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

(I) (A) Students and families are unaware of the true cost of attending postsecondary options and the resources available to pay for education and training that might be available by federal or state financial aid forms; or

(B) A false belief that grants or scholarships are unavailable based on family resources and income levels;

(II) Students and families often do not have the required tax information available due to individual or family circumstances or needed support to acquire that information or fill out complex forms, which leads to students not completing and submitting federal financial aid or state financial aid documents; and

(III) Students and families fear incurring debt for postsecondary education because of the potential difficulty in paying back those loans;

(d) In 2023, the free application for federal student aid will be simplified, reducing the number of questions from 100 to 30 and reducing the financial information needed through the federal "FAFSA Simplification Act";

(e) More broadly, Colorado students have the opportunity to magnify the impact of state investments in higher education by accessing federal dollars to pursue postsecondary education and a credential of value to enhance income earning potential. It is estimated that more than \$30 million in federal resources could be leveraged each year by Colorado students completing federal and state financial aid applications.

(f) Completing federal and state financial aid applications requires support among students and their families, K-12 college and career readiness programs, and higher education institutions for academic and workforce training.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 22-7-1015.5** as follows:

22-7-1015.5. Postsecondary, workforce, career, and education grant program - created - application - criteria - awards - appropriation - repeal.

(1) THERE IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE "DEPARTMENT", THE POSTSECONDARY, WORKFORCE, CAREER, AND EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE "GRANT PROGRAM", TO AWARD GRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS TO IMPROVE THE POSTSECONDARY OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS AND TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS COMPLETING THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS "FAFSA", AND THE COLORADO APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS "CASFA". EACH GRANT HAS A TERM OF THREE YEARS BEGINNING IN THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR. IN MAKING A GRANT AWARD, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SPECIFY THE AMOUNT OF EACH GRANT.

(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE GRANT MONEY TO THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS THAT RECEIVE A GRANT FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

(a) DEVELOPING AND DISTRIBUTING INFORMATION TO STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND

SCHOOL LEADERS REGARDING THE FAFSA AND APPLICATIONS FOR STATE STUDENT AID, AND THE BENEFITS OF COMPLETING THE FAFSA AND APPLICATIONS FOR STATE STUDENT AID;

(b) DEVELOPING AND DISTRIBUTING INFORMATION TO STUDENTS AND FAMILIES REGARDING THE STEPS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA AND APPLICATIONS FOR STATE STUDENT AID;

(c) TRAINING SCHOOL COUNSELORS AND OTHER EDUCATORS ON BEST PRACTICES TO SUPPORT STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WITH FILLING OUT THE FAFSA AND APPLICATIONS FOR STATE STUDENT AID, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE HISTORICALLY LOW COMPLETION RATES OF THE FAFSA AND APPLICATIONS FOR STATE STUDENT AID;

(d) ORGANIZING AND HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES TO MEET WITH STAKEHOLDERS WHO ASSIST IN COMPLETING THE FAFSA OR APPLICATIONS FOR STATE STUDENT AID;

(e) INCORPORATING COMPLETION OF APPLICATIONS FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID AND APPLICATIONS FOR STATE STUDENT AID INTO INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLANS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 22-32-109 AND 22-30.5-525;

(f) COLLABORATING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S EFFORTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-3.3-1007 TO SUPPORT LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS IN EXPLORING POSTSECONDARY OPTIONS UNDER THE INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLANS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 22-32-109 AND 22-30.5-525; AND

(g) COLLABORATING OR PARTNERING WITH NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS AND STUDENTS WITH EDUCATION AND COMPLETION OF STUDENT APPLICATIONS FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID AND APPLICATIONS FOR STATE STUDENT AID.

(3) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SEEKING A GRANT MUST SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REVIEW EACH GRANT APPLICATION RECEIVED AND DETERMINE WHETHER AND IN WHAT AMOUNT A GRANT SHOULD BE AWARDED TO THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER. IF THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES AN APPLICATION IS MISSING ANY INFORMATION REQUIRED BY RULE TO BE INCLUDED WITH THE APPLICATION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY CONTACT THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER TO OBTAIN THE MISSING INFORMATION.

(4) AT A MINIMUM, EACH GRANT APPLICATION MUST SPECIFY:

(a) THE CURRENT PROGRAMS RELATED TO COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1015 AND INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLANS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 22-32-109 AND 22-30.5-525 THAT THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER USES;

(b) WHETHER THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER HAS ENTERED INTO, OR HAS COMMITTED TO ESTABLISHING, ONE OR MORE PARTNERSHIPS WITH INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR POSTSECONDARY SERVICE PROVIDERS IN COLORADO TO SUPPORT AND INCREASE THE CAPACITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF CAREER COUNSELING

AND POSTSECONDARY PREPARATION SERVICES PROVIDED TO STUDENTS ENROLLED IN OR RECEIVING EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FROM THE EDUCATION PROVIDER;

(c) THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S PLAN FOR USE OF THE GRANT MONEY, INCLUDING THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE GRANT MONEY WILL BE USED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO COMPLETE FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS AT THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S HIGH SCHOOLS SERVED BY THE GRANT AND TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SCHOOL COUNSELORS AND OTHER EDUCATORS ON WORK-BASED LEARNING, COMPLETION OF FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS, AND INTEGRATION OF ALL POSTSECONDARY OPTIONS INTO THE INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLANS FOR STUDENTS;

(d) THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S PLAN FOR INVOLVING EDUCATORS AND ADMINISTRATORS AT THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S SCHOOLS PROVIDING POSTSECONDARY PREPARATION SUPPORTS;

(e) THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER HAS DEVELOPED OR PLANS TO DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS TO SERVE THE POSTSECONDARY NEEDS OF ALL OF THE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN OR RECEIVING EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FROM THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER;

(f) THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S USE OF DISTRICT-LEVEL OR SCHOOL-LEVEL EXISTING AND POTENTIAL PROGRAMMING FOR POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-7-1008;

(g) WHETHER THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER INTENDS TO PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS TO AUGMENT ANY GRANT MONEY RECEIVED FROM THE PROGRAM AND THE ANTICIPATED AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF ANY MATCHING FUNDS; AND

(h) WHETHER THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER NEEDS TO UPDATE THE INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLAN PROCESS TO ACCOMMODATE REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-2-136 (1), INCLUDING FINANCIAL AID FORM INFORMATION, OR FINANCIAL LITERACY CURRICULUM PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-2-127.

(5) IN REVIEWING APPLICATIONS, THE DEPARTMENT MAY CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA, IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER CRITERIA ADOPTED BY RULE OF THE STATE BOARD:

(a) HIGH SCHOOLS WITH LOW POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL ATTAINMENT RATES;

(b) THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S HIGH SCHOOLS WITH LOW FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION COMPLETION RATES; AND

(c) THE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER. THE DEPARTMENT MAY PRIORITIZE AWARDED GRANTS TO RURAL AREAS OF THE STATE AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO RURAL LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS REQUESTING SUPPORT.

(6) (a) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL AWARD GRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

EACH GRANT HAS A TERM OF THREE YEARS BEGINNING IN THE 2022-23 BUDGET YEAR. IN MAKING A GRANT AWARD, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SPECIFY THE AMOUNT OF EACH GRANT.

(b) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER THAT RECEIVES A GRANT SHALL USE THE MONEY FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

(I) DEVELOPING AND DISTRIBUTING TO STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND EDUCATORS INFORMATION ABOUT AND STEPS TO COMPLETE THE FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS;

(II) TRAINING SCHOOL COUNSELORS AND OTHER EDUCATORS ON BEST PRACTICES TO SUPPORT STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WITH FILLING OUT FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS WITH AN EMPHASIS ON SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE HISTORICALLY LOW COMPLETION RATES OF FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS;

(III) ORGANIZING AND HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES TO MEET WITH STAKEHOLDERS WHO ASSIST IN COMPLETING THE FAFSA OR APPLICATIONS FOR STATE STUDENT AID; AND

(IV) UPDATING THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLAN PROCESS WITH FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION AND COMPLETION OF THE APPLICATION FORMS.

(7) THE DEPARTMENT MAY EXPEND NO MORE THAN TEN PERCENT OF THE MONEY ANNUALLY APPROPRIATED FOR THE PROGRAM TO OFFSET THE COSTS INCURRED IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO RURAL LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS, GRANT-RELATED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING, AND REPORTING ACTIVITIES.

(8) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2023, AND ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER FOR THE LENGTH OF THE GRANT, EACH LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER RECEIVING GRANT MONEY PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL REPORT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO THE DEPARTMENT:

(a) A COMPARISON OF THE DROPOUT RATES, AND THE COLLEGE MATRICULATION AND REMEDIATION RATES, IF APPLICABLE, AT THE HIGH SCHOOLS SERVED BY THE GRANT FOR THE YEARS PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF THE GRANT AND THE YEARS FOR WHICH THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER RECEIVES THE GRANT; AND

(b) A COMPARISON OF THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS FOR THE YEAR PRIOR TO WHICH THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER RECEIVED THE GRANT, IF AVAILABLE, AND THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS FOR EACH OF THE THREE YEARS THE EDUCATION PROVIDER RECEIVES THE GRANT.

(9) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136(11)(a)(I), ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 15, 2023, AND ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 15 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER FOR THE LENGTH OF THE GRANT, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR

COMMITTEES, A REPORT THAT, AT A MINIMUM, SUMMARIZES THE INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (8) OF THIS SECTION AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-1-113 (9). THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ALSO POST THE REPORT TO ITS WEBSITE.

(10) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE TO THE DEPARTMENT ONE MILLION, ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. ANY UNEXPENDED MONEY REMAINING AT THE END OF THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR FROM THIS APPROPRIATION:

(I) DOES NOT REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER FUND;

(II) MAY BE USED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE 2023-24 OR 2024-25 STATE FISCAL YEAR WITHOUT FURTHER APPROPRIATION; AND

(III) MUST NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE OTHER THAN THE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION.

(11) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2027.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1015, **amend** (4)(c); and **add** (4)(e), (4)(f), and (4)(g) as follows:

22-7-1015. Postsecondary and workforce readiness program - technical assistance - appropriation. (4) The department of education, the department of higher education, and the state institutions of higher education, upon request, shall provide support to local education providers in implementing postsecondary and workforce readiness. Beginning with the 2009-10 budget year, the department of education and the department of higher education may include in their annual budget requests an amount necessary to offset the costs incurred in complying with this section. Support may include, but need not be limited to:

(c) Providing professional development for educators; ~~and~~

(e) ESTABLISHING SUPPORT THROUGH REGIONAL POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS COORDINATORS FOR TRAINING THAT ALIGNS WITH FINANCIAL AID, FINANCIAL LITERACY, AND SUPPORTS FOR STUDENT FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION AND STUDENT STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION COMPLETION;

(f) (I) SUPPORTING THE NUMBER OF REGIONAL INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLAN COORDINATORS IN THE STATE AND UPDATING THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE COORDINATORS TO SUPPORT FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION AND APPLICATIONS;

(II) REQUIRING THE REGIONAL INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLAN COORDINATORS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND OUTREACH TO SCHOOLS AND COORDINATE WITH THE OUTREACH TEAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-1-119 (6).

(g) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE TO THE DEPARTMENT TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE PROGRAMS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (4)(f) OF THIS SECTION. ANY UNEXPENDED MONEY REMAINING AT THE END OF THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR FROM THIS APPROPRIATION:

(I) DOES NOT REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER FUND;

(II) MAY BE USED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE 2023-24 OR 2024-25 STATE FISCAL YEAR WITHOUT FURTHER APPROPRIATION; AND

(III) MUST NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE OTHER THAN THE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (4)(f) OF THIS SECTION.

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-2-127, **add** (7) as follows:

22-2-127. Financial literacy - resource bank - technical assistance - definitions - appropriation - repeal. (7) (a) THE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SHALL:

(I) UPDATE FINANCIAL LITERACY INFORMATION AND TRAINING PROVIDED TO LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS TO INCLUDE DETAILED RESOURCES AND TOOLS ABOUT FINANCIAL AID, ACCESS TO FINANCIAL AID TOOLS, AND APPLICATIONS AND PROCESSES BEGINNING IN MIDDLE SCHOOL OR EARLIER; AND

(II) DEVELOP FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING OPTIONS ALIGNED WITH FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION, FEDERAL AND STATE APPLICATION PROCESSES, AND UNDERLYING FINANCIAL LITERACY PRINCIPLES, SUCH AS IN-DEMAND, HIGH-WAGE JOBS AND THE NECESSARY TRAINING LEADING TO THOSE JOBS. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PRIORITIZE PROVIDING TRAINING TO FINANCIAL LITERACY EDUCATORS, CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS, COUNSELORS, AND PROFESSIONALS, SUCH AS THOSE WORKING IN FAMILY ENGAGEMENT.

(b) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE TO THE DEPARTMENT TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE PROGRAMS PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (7). ANY UNEXPENDED MONEY REMAINING AT THE END OF THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR FROM THIS APPROPRIATION:

(I) DOES NOT REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER FUND;

(II) MAY BE USED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE 2023-24 OR 2024-25 STATE FISCAL YEAR WITHOUT FURTHER APPROPRIATION; AND

(III) MUST NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE OTHER THAN THE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THIS SUBSECTION (7).

(c) THIS SUBSECTION (7) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-2-127.1 as follows:

22-2-127.1. Stipends for financial aid training - definitions - appropriation - repeal. (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

(a) "ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT" MEANS AN EDUCATOR WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES TRAINING IN FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

(b) "LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT, A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22, A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22, OR A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED AND OPERATING PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF THIS TITLE 22 THAT OPERATES ONE OR MORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

(c) "TRAINING TO IMPROVE FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS AND FAMILIES" OR "TRAINING" MEANS A TRAINING CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH AN EMPHASIS ON IMPROVING THE COMPLETION RATE OF STUDENTS COMPLETING THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID AND THE COLORADO APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID.

(2) BEGINNING WITH THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, FOR ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE TRAINING TO IMPROVE FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS AND FAMILIES, THE DEPARTMENT, SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, SHALL AWARD TO THE ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT A ONE-TIME STIPEND IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS.

(3) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE TO THE DEPARTMENT TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO BE USED FOR THE STIPENDS PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. ANY UNEXPENDED MONEY REMAINING AT THE END OF THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR FROM THIS APPROPRIATION:

(a) DOES NOT REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER FUND;

(b) MAY BE USED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE 2023-24 OR 2024-25 STATE FISCAL YEARS WITHOUT FURTHER APPROPRIATION; AND

(c) MUST NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE OTHER THAN THE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION.

(4) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025.

SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-32-109, **amend** (1)(oo)(III)(B.5) and (1)(oo)(III)(C); and **add** (1)(oo)(III)(D) as follows:

22-32-109. Board of education - specific duties - definitions. (1) In addition to any other duty required to be performed by law, each board of education has the following specific duties:

(oo) (III) At a minimum, each public school shall ensure that, in developing and

maintaining each student's ICAP, the counselor or teacher explains to the student's parent or legal guardian, by electronic mail or other written form, and to the student:

(B.5) The teaching career pathway created pursuant to section 23-60-110, the career opportunities to which the pathway leads, and information concerning participation in the TREP program created in section 22-35-108.5; ~~and~~

(C) The skills and educational opportunities available through military enlistment. In discussing military enlistment with a student and his or her parent, each public school is encouraged to provide to the student information concerning the military enlistment test; AND

(D) THE AVAILABILITY AND IMPORTANCE OF COMPLETING THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID OR THE COLORADO APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID, OR SUCCESSOR FORMS FOR ACCESSING FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID, AND THE AVAILABILITY OF HELP IN COMPLETING THE FORMS, IF REQUESTED.

SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-119, **add** (6) as follows:

23-1-119. Department directive - transition between K-12 education system and postsecondary education system. (6) (a) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH AN OUTREACH TEAM TO PROVIDE TRAINING TO AND ESTABLISH PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS, CHARTER SCHOOLS AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF TITLE 22, CHARTER SCHOOLS AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF TITLE 22, OR A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED AND OPERATING PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF TITLE 22 THAT OPERATES ONE OR MORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO ASSIST THEM IN PREPARING STUDENTS TO TRANSITION FROM THE K-12 EDUCATION SYSTEM. THE TEAM SHALL ALSO PROVIDE OUTREACH AND TRAINING TO INDIVIDUALS IN WORKFORCE CENTERS, INDIVIDUALS IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES, AND FOSTER YOUTH.

(b) THE TRAINING MUST INCLUDE:

(I) CAREER ADVISING AS PART OF STUDENT'S INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND EDUCATION PLANS;

(II) FINANCIAL LITERACY, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID AND THE COLORADO APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID;

(III) HOW TO SUPPORT THE COMPLETION OF FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS;

(IV) THE IMPORTANCE OF, AND RETURN ON INVESTMENT OF, ALL POSTSECONDARY OPTIONS, INCLUDING AVAILABLE STATE-SUPPORTED WEBSITES AND NAVIGATION TOOLS ON POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITIES;

(V) THE AVAILABILITY OF STATE FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS; AND

(VI) THE DEPARTMENT'S ROLE AND MISSION.

(c) THE TRAINING MUST BE AVAILABLE TO EDUCATORS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TRAINING APPROVED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-2-127.1.

SECTION 8. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-3.3-106 and 23-3.3-107 as follows:

23-3.3-106. Technology to support FAFSA and CASFA - definitions. (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

(a) "CASFA" MEANS THE COLORADO APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID.

(b) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

(c) "FAFSA" MEANS THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID.

(d) "LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT, A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF TITLE 22, A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF TITLE 22, OR A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED AND OPERATING PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF TITLE 22 THAT OPERATES ONE OR MORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

(2)(a) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL USE TECHNOLOGY TO ASSIST IN INCREASING THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO COMPLETE THE FAFSA AND CASFA FORMS. ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 15, 2023, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP A TOOL KIT AND TRAINING OUTLINING WEB TOOLS AND RESOURCES FOR USE BY HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATORS, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS, AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT THE COMPLETION OF FAFSA AND CASFA FORMS. THE TOOL KIT MUST INCLUDE FREE RESOURCES, INCLUDING:

(I) NET PRICE CALCULATORS AND INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO USE CALCULATORS TO OUTLINE RESOURCES AVAILABLE BASED ON FINANCIAL NEED;

(II) SUPPORTS FOR POPULATIONS OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE ACCOMMODATIONS AS OUTLINED BY THE FAFSA OR YOUTH WHO MAY BE CONSIDERED INDEPENDENT ACCORDING TO FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION POLICIES, INCLUDING:

(A) YOUTH WHO HAVE DECEASED PARENTS, ARE CURRENTLY OR PREVIOUSLY WERE IN FOSTER CARE, OR ARE A WARD OF THE COURT;

(B) EMANCIPATED MINORS;

(C) YOUTH UNDER A LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP; AND

(D) YOUTH WHO ARE HOMELESS, SELF-SUPPORTING, OR AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS;

(III) INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE THE FIRST IN THEIR FAMILY TO ATTEND COLLEGE AND HOW TO NAVIGATE FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES AND

APPLICATION PROCESSES; AND

(IV) PUBLIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE THROUGH STATE OR FEDERAL ENTITIES.

(b) THE INFORMATION IN THE TOOL KIT MUST BE:

(I) OFFERED IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES; AND

(II) UPDATED ANNUALLY FOR EDUCATORS AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT STUDENTS AND FAMILIES IN DEVELOPING INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND EDUCATION PLANS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 22-32-109(1)(oo) AND 22-30.5-525 AND CAREER-CONNECTED STRATEGIES, SUCH AS WORK-BASED LEARNING IN SUPPORT OF FINANCIAL LITERACY EDUCATION AND COMPLETION OF THE FINANCIAL AID FORMS.

(c) THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD CONSIDER AVOIDING DUPLICATION OF EFFORTS BY LEVERAGING EXISTING RESOURCES IN CREATING THE TOOL KIT.

(3) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 15, 2023, AND ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 15 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, A REPORT CONCERNING:

(a) THE STEPS THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS MADE TO IMPROVE THE TOOL KIT;

(b) ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATIVE CHANGES NECESSARY TO IMPROVE FAFSA AND CASFA COMPLETION RATES;

(c) SUBJECT TO DATA AVAILABILITY AND DATA PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS, DATA INDICATING THE FAFSA AND CASFA COMPLETION RATES BY HIGH SCHOOL AND SCHOOL DISTRICT AND, WHERE AVAILABLE, DISAGGREGATED BY RACE, ETHNICITY, FIRST-GENERATION STATUS, AND PELL GRANT ELIGIBILITY FOR:

(I) ADULTS BY COUNTY; AND

(II) HIGH SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS; AND

(d) OTHER INFORMATION AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OR PARTNER AGENCIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, COLORADO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, OR OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL TRADES IN SUPPORT OF COLORADO'S ECONOMIC AND JOB NEEDS.

(4) (a) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO ITS WEB-BASED FINANCIAL AID COMPLETION TOOL TO SUPPORT SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACROSS COLORADO IN DETERMINING WHICH STUDENTS HAVE COMPLETED FINANCIAL AID FORMS BY:

(I) UPDATING AND MODERNIZING THE COMPLETION TOOL WITH FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION; AND

(II) DISPLAYING THE INFORMATION FOR FAFSA AND CASFA COMPLETION AND VERIFICATION STATUS ON A LOCAL LEVEL TO SHOW HOW MANY STUDENTS IN A HIGH SCHOOL HAVE COMPLETED AN APPLICATION FORM AND MAKE THE INFORMATION ACCESSIBLE BY SCHOOL OR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS IN ALIGNMENT WITH STATE DATA PRIVACY REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS.

(b) FINANCIAL INFORMATION SHALL NOT BE SHARED IN THIS TOOL. THE TOOL MAY ONLY BE USED TO SHOW APPLICATION COMPLETION, PARTIAL COMPLETION, AND VERIFICATION STATUS.

(5) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUPPORT COLLEGE ACCESS ACTIVITIES BY:

(a) PROVIDING CAREER ADVISING ALIGNED WITH COLORADO'S CRITICAL INDUSTRY SHORTAGE AREAS;

(b) PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT DEGREE PROGRAMS IN ALIGNMENT WITH IN-DEMAND, HIGH-WAGE JOBS;

(c) PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE APPLICATION AND FINANCIAL AID PROCESSES ASSOCIATED WITH ACCESSING POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION;

(d) SUPPORTING STUDENTS AND FAMILIES IN COMPLETING FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS; AND

(e) PROVIDING INFORMATION ASSOCIATED WITH RETURN-ON-INVESTMENT AND FINANCIAL LITERACY EDUCATION IN RELATION TO ADDITIONAL EDUCATION BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL, INCLUDING:

(I) DEGREE PROGRAMS;

(II) CREDENTIALS;

(III) APPRENTICESHIPS;

(IV) WORK-BASED LEARNING; AND

(V) SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, AND OTHER FINANCIAL TOOLS TO SUPPORT POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.

(6) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE SIX HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION. ANY UNEXPENDED MONEY REMAINING AT THE END OF THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR:

(a) DOES NOT REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER FUND;

(b) MAY BE USED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN SUBSEQUENT STATE FISCAL YEARS WITHOUT FURTHER APPROPRIATION; AND

(c) SHALL NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE OTHER THAN THE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION.

23-3.3-107. Improvements to CASFA - definitions - repeal. (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

- (a) "CASFA" MEANS THE COLORADO APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID.
- (b) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION.
- (c) "FAFSA" MEANS THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID.

(2) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2024, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE THE FOLLOWING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CASFA:

- (a) IMPROVE THE ACCESSIBILITY AND EASE OF USE IN COMPLETING THE CASFA FORMS;
- (b) IMPROVE THE FORM AND APPLICATION BY CONDUCTING FOCUS GROUPS AND CONSULTING ORGANIZATIONS SERVING CASFA-ELIGIBLE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES, INCLUDING STREAMLINING TO MIRROR MODERNIZATIONS IN THE FAFSA APPLICATION;
- (c) ASSESSING THE EXISTING FUNCTIONALITY OF THE CASFA PROCESS, WEB TOOL, AND APPLICATION;
- (d) IDENTIFYING AND IMPROVING WEBSITE FUNCTIONALITY; AND
- (e) PROVIDING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WITH SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES ON AN ONGOING CAPACITY.

(3) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE THREE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION. ANY UNEXPENDED MONEY REMAINING AT THE END OF THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR:

- (a) DOES NOT REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER FUND;
- (b) MAY BE USED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN SUBSEQUENT STATE FISCAL YEARS WITHOUT FURTHER APPROPRIATION; AND
- (c) SHALL NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE OTHER THAN THE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION.

(4) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025.

SECTION 9. Appropriation. (1) For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, \$1,625,000 is appropriated to the department of education. This appropriation is from the general fund. Any money appropriated in this subsection (1) not expended prior to July 1, 2023, is further appropriated to the department for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 state fiscal years for the same purpose. To implement this act, the department may use this appropriation as follows:

- (a) \$1,150,000 for the postsecondary, workforce, career, and education grant and

readiness program, which amount is based on an assumption that the department will require an additional 0.9 FTE; and

(b) \$475,000 for financial aid training stipends and resource bank, which amount is based on an assumption that the department will require an additional 1.0 FTE.

(2) For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, \$1,000,000 is appropriated to the department of higher education. This appropriation is from the general fund. Any money appropriated in this subsection (2) not expended prior to July 1, 2023, is further appropriated to the department for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 state fiscal years for the same purpose. To implement this act, the department may use this appropriation as follows:

(a) \$680,000 for a financial aid toolkit, which amount is based on an assumption that the department will require an additional 2.0 FTE; and

(b) \$320,000 for financial aid assessment tool improvements, which amount is based on an assumption that the department will require an additional 1.0 FTE.

(3) For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, \$250,000 is appropriated to the department of higher education. This appropriation is from the general fund and is based on an assumption that the department will require an additional 2.0 FTE. To implement this act, the department may use this appropriation for Colorado commission on higher education and higher education special purpose program administration.

SECTION 10. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.

Approved: May 26, 2022